

Best Practice: Electric Fence



Category:	Perimeter Control
Location:	Maputo Port Development Company (MPDC)
Date Observed:	12 December 2005
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Description: The MPDC property is surrounded by a high-voltage (8,000 volt), low amperage electric fence. The fence has a section extending downward at a 45 degree angle to deter persons from attempting to climb over it. The fence is over 4 kilometers in length and 3 meters high. It is powered by batteries that are solar charged. The fence is divided into 16 sections that sound a central alarm when grounded.

Discussion: Since the electric fence was installed by MPDC no unauthorized personnel have been found within the port facility.

Potential Down-side: If a person becomes entangled in the electric fence they can receive serious burns from the high voltage.

Conclusion: The fence would pose a potential law suit in some countries. In Mozambique the fence has proven to be an effective deterrent to persons attempting to gain unauthorized entry into the port facility. The ports have seen a decrease in cargo theft as well as unauthorized personnel in the port facility.

Cost: The initial cost for construction was \$250,000 U.S. dollars.